

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 13-22 are in the case.

I. ELECTION/RESTRICTION

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group II. The election is made with traverse.

The Action asserts that "shared features" are disclosed in Stuckel and Ueda *et al.* However, it is clear from the term "batch reactor" recited in claim 13 and the method steps of claim 21 that the apparatus/method of the present invention operate during a first part of the operation with the stirrer rotating in a direction to maintain material within the vessel, and subsequently with the stirrer reversed to allow the discharge of the material. In contrast, in Stuckel and Ueda *et al.*, material is "normally" conveyed continuously out of any "vessel" that may be present. Thus, in Stuckel, this is alternatively through either of the outlets 10 and 11 (see Figures 2a and 3). In Ueda *et al.*, the "normal" operation is to pass material continuously out of the hopper 11 and through the extruder, with the reverse being used after an "emergency stop" of the continuous mixer. In this regard, it is noted that the title of Ueda *et al.* is "Continuous Mixer and Operating Method Thereof" (emphasis added).

In light of the above, it is not seen how Stuckel and Ueda *et al.* disclose "shared features" with regard to the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all pending claims are respectfully requested .

II. AMENDMENTS

Claims 13-19 are withdrawn from consideration pending further consideration of the restriction requirement in light of the above arguments. Claim 20 has been amended to recite the apparatus details. The specification has been amended to include customary headings including a brief description of the drawings. No new matter is entered.

Further action is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Leonard C. Mitchard/
Leonard C. Mitchard
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:Iff
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100